

MASON'S Coin Collectors' HERALD

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NO. 1.

History of the Recently Discovered CONFEDERATE SILVER HALF DOLLAR.



STRUCK BY C. S. A., AT NEW ORLEANS MINT, APRIL, 1861.

IT has been believed and recorded as an historical fact that the Southern Confederacy had no metallic currency. After a lapse of eighteen years, evidence now presents itself to show that four coins were struck off at the New Orleans Mint while that place was in the possession of the Confederate Government. This discovery has been brought about by an article prepared by us for the *Philadelphia Public Record*, and inserted in that paper January 2nd, under the caption of "A CRAZE FOR COINS," which gave the fancy prices placed upon rare pieces.

A few days subsequently to the publication, we received a communication from B. F. Taylor, M.D., the Secretary and Treasurer of the Louisiana State Board of Health, giving the information that he had a Confederate coin in his possession. In reply, we wrote for a lead pencil rubbing of the piece, at the same time expressing a doubt as to the existence of any genuine coins of the Confederate States. The return mail brought a rubbing of the coin, (see cuts).

The obverse has the Goddess of Liberty, with the thirteen stars, representing the States from which the Confederacy sprang, and the date, "1861." On the reverse a Liberty cap, beneath which is the American shield, the union of the latter containing seven stars, representing the seven seceding States, the whole being surrounded with a wreath of sugar cane and cotton in bloom, and the motto "Confederate States of America."

The history of the coin may be briefly recapitulated from Mr. Taylor's statement. "When the New Orleans

Mint was taken possession of by the Confederates in April, 1861, the original dies of the United States were cancelled in the presence of the officials connected with the building. The Confederate Cabinet, which was then sitting at Montgomery, issued orders for a Confederate Coin. The design, as herein represented, was submitted and approved, and orders were issued for the striking off of specimen pieces. Four half dollars were accordingly coined. Then came an obstacle. The Confederate Government found that it had not control of sufficient bullion to proceed with an issue of coins, and, consequently, the matter was deferred, and a temporary issue of paper money decided upon. The subsequent rout of the Confederates threw the coinage project overboard.

Of the four coins struck, one is in the possession of one of the officers of the Confederate Government, the second was presented to Professor Biddle, of the University of Louisiana; the third, to Dr. Ames, of New Orleans, and the fourth was retained by Chief Coiner Taylor.

It is a noteworthy fact that all the individuals who were connected with the coinage, including the Superintendent of the Mint, Assayer, Coiner, Engraver, Die Sinker, down to the man who held the chisel and used the hammer in the cancelling of the old and new dies, are living at the present time."

Early in April, Mr. Taylor sent us the original coin together with the obverse die, requesting us to make public the existence of a Confederate Coin, and set at rest the long disputed question concerning the issue of coins by the Confederate States during the civil rebellion. It was Mr. Taylor's desire that the coin and die should become the property of some historical or numismatic association, but private enterprise far outbid all offers from scientific bodies to possess the coveted prize. Notwithstanding the extraordinary and extensive advertising done to secure a purchaser willing to remunerate the owner for a considerable outlay of money, and visits by the writer to various parts of the country to exhibit the coin and die, and presentation of the most convincing and irrefragable proofs of genuineness in the shape of documents, affidavits, published "Acts and Resolutions" of the C. S. A., issued during February and March, 1861, at Montgomery, Alabama, yet this *almost* unique coin, and equally interesting (though old and rusty) die from which the

coin was struck, were sacrificed for a few hundred dollars to an enterprising coin dealer in New York. The U. S. Government took a far greater interest than numismatists and historians generally, as the subjoined correspondence taken from the *New Orleans Picayune*, of April 9th, which we think of sufficient interest to reprint, will amply testify to.

CONFEDERATE ARCHIVES.

The Mint during the Civil War—Correspondence between the Chief Coiner and Gen. Marcus Wright.

The following correspondence in relation to the history of the Mint in this city while it was under the control of the Confederate States Government will be found interesting:

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Adjutant General's Office,
WASHINGTON, March 27th, 1879. }

Dr. B. F. Taylor, New Orleans, La.:

Dear Sir:—The inclosed circulars will explain to you the nature of the duties upon which I am now engaged:

I beg to refer you to my friends, Gens. Beauregard and Hood, and Capt. Pierce of your city, for my service in the Confederate army. I would like to have from you for file with the Confederate archives, a letter stating when and where you were appointed chief coiner of the Confederate States Mint, instructions received, copies of originals of any official papers, sketches, descriptions, etc., of all the coins made, etc. This will make a valuable addition to Confederate history, and I know no one but you can give it.

Very truly, yours,

MARCUS J. WRIGHT.

REPLY.

NEW ORLEANS, LA., April 7th, 1879.

To Hon. Marcus J. Wright:

Dear Sir:—Your favor requesting a statement of the history of the New Orleans Mint, in reference to the coinage under the Confederate Government, is received.

That institution was turned over by the State of Louisiana the last of February, 1861, to the Confederate States of America, the old officers being retained and confirmed by the Government, viz: Wm. A. Elmore, Superintendent; A. J. Guirol, Treasurer; M. F. Bonzano, M. D., Meller and Refiner; and Howard Millsbaugh, Assayer.

In the month of April orders were issued by Mr. Memminger, Secretary of the Treasurer, to the effect that designs for half dollar coins should be submitted to him for approval.

Among several sent, the one approved bore on the obverse of the coin a representation of the Goddess of Liberty, surrounded by thirteen stars, denoting the

thirteen States from whence the Confederacy sprung, and on the lower rim the figures 1861.

On the reverse there is a shield with seven stars, representing the seceding States; above the shield is a liberty cap, and entwined around it stalks of sugar cane and cotton. The inscription is, "Confederate States of America." The dies were engraved by A. H. M. Peterson, engraver and die striker, who is now living in Commercial Place. They were prepared for the coining press by Conrad Schmidt, foreman of the coining room, (who is still living,) from which four pieces only were struck.

About this period an order came from the Secretary suspending operations on account of the difficulty of obtaining bullion, and the Mint was closed April 30th, 1861.

Of the four pieces mentioned one was sent to the Government, one presented to Prof. Biddle, of the University of Louisiana, one to Dr. E. Ames, of New Orleans, the remaining one being retained by myself. Upon diligent inquiry I am unable to find but one piece besides my own, that being in the possession of a Confederate officer of this city, who transmits it to his son as a souvenir of his father's services in the Confederate cause.

So soon as copies are made I will take pleasure in sending you a specimen for the archives you represent.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

B. F. TAYLOR, M. D.,
Formerly Chief Coiner C. S. A.

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VARIETIES OF AMERICAN COIN.

IS it not a little remarkable that, with all the close attention given by numismatic societies and collectors to our country's coinage that varieties of U. S. coins existing in profusion for many years, are entirely unknown to the makers of coin catalogues, price lists, and numismatic journals. There is a U. S. silver half dollar which was coined at the San Francisco, California Mint in 1866, bearing upon the reverse a label having the legend "In God we Trust" inscribed therein; but, strange to say, there are few collectors aware—at any rate, we have not seen the fact published—that there is also a half dollar issued the same year, from the same mint, without the aforementioned label and legend. Here are two distinct varieties of the U. S. silver half dollar, and why have they not been noticed during the past thirteen years? We shall call attention to similar instances in a future number.

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PUBLIC COIN SALE.

WE are under obligations to friend Henry Cook, of Boston, for a few catalogues of his "Collection of Ancient and Modern Coins, Medals, Congressional, State and Colonial Paper Money," etc., sold Tuesday, May 20th, in Boston. Regret we could not attend.

NUMISMATIC EXCURSIONS.—No. 1.

SOMETIMES the busy editor of a newspaper indulges in a little recreation, previous to which he washes his hands, puts on a clean shirt, packs a little 8x10 valise, with nickel-plated brass heads as big as half dollars, and with a "dead-head" ticket tucked among his small change in a nickel-plated porte-monnaie entirely out of proportion to contents, slips quietly off to enjoy a needed rest. We say *sometimes*, rarely often, and when he returns refreshed with the bloom of youth reappearing on his cheeks, or possibly on a more prominent physiological appendage, he feels like a new man, imbued with new ideas, and has the spirit of a philosopher and philanthropist, determined to give his readers an extra entertainment in the shape of "travels," "personalities," "anecdotes," etc. With a somewhat similar feeling, the editor hereof, left his comfortable sanctum one early morning last week, *via* the Bound Brook Railroad, with a *full paid* ticket for Boston, taking with him the recently unearthed Confederate half dollar and a number of rare coins for exhibition, sale or exchange. Stopping in New York for the purpose of visiting the sale of Michael Moore's coin cabinet, at Bangs Auction House, Broadway, where he exhibited the interesting Confederate coin to Cogan, Nichols, Chapman, Sampson, Deffendorf, and other prominent numismatists; made a hasty examination of the beautiful coins spread out in glittering array on the long tables like an enticing feast to tempt the palate of the on lookers, and paid a pop visit to several dealers, (Brown, Scott & Co., Sampson, *et. al.*) left New York by steamer *via* Fall River, on Friday, May 2d., for Boston, and made tracks for Cambridge, where our Confederate States of America Half Dollar created a sensation. Returned to Boston, and called at rooms of N. E. Historical Society to show our treasures; then around the city, calling here and there, buying, selling, and exchanging coins, and finally dropped into Ahlborn's Coin Store, Exchange street. Found Henry L., busy as a bee, storing away his numismatic honey in the shape of rare silver coins. Left Henry L., passed by Henry H's., coin and cobblers establishment, and dropped down upon the King of all modern collectors, L. G. Parmelee; whose extraordinary and beautiful series of American coins made our heart ache with envy. Row after row of uncirculated cents, dollars, etc., and Colonials beyond our ability to describe, without losing our self-possession and calling all the coins *diamonds of the first water*. From Parmelee's Palatial Palace, (erected on Boston's nutritious edibles, "B. B." & "B. B.") we hailed a Washington street car, and soon passed on to the famous "Highlands," (which our old, but still young looking friend, W. has beautified and embellished at a sacrifice of thousands of ducats,) and soon entered a delightfully arranged apothecary's shop, where we met W. Elliott Woodward, the proprietor, and veteran dealer in American numismatic literature; he who "gobbled up" Mickley's magnificent cabinet

of coins, etc.; and he, who has had the temerity to "gobble up" many other cabinets, and whose multifarious sales of American imprints and coin has placed his name high up on the bibliographic and numismatic temple of fame. After a pleasant conversation and interchange of views concerning the coin trade, etc., and an invitation to share a luxurious state room on a passage to New York, (which offer was accepted,) we jumped into a return car, and to be *frank*, confess to having a good, clever, sociable companion—a chip of the old block, (Frank Woodward)—who parted with us on Tremont street. After visiting several dealers and collectors, and getting some bids for rare coins, collecting a few advertisements and subscribers for the *Herald*, we started for the Old Colony Depot, and joined W. E. W. for a little excursion to New York, Brooklyn, etc. It is needless to say we occupied the whole night, while on the steamer, discussing coins, etc., and to our surprise, was entering New York Harbor before obtaining a wink of sleep. On arrival in New York, we took quarters at a hotel for the day, wishing to pay our devotions in a becoming manner conducive to health and morality, and entered a comfortable ch—, must we confess it?—a comfortable *chamber*, and slept in blissful ignorance of church service throughout the entire day! On Monday we paid a friendly visit to numerous collectors, stopped in Brown's coin and stamp dealing establishment, Nassau street, examined a beautiful 1836 proof silver dollar ("Gobrecht" in the field) a unique gold N. E. sixpence, and other rare pieces; skipped over to Scott & Co's., Coin and Stamp Emporium in Fulton St., sold to the latter firm our Confederate Silver half dollar of 1861, and many other beautiful coins, made some purchases, bagged a number of advertisers and subscribers, and penned a number of notes for future reference and elaboration, leaving New York for this city, where we arrived in time to take an early train, on Tuesday, for Reading, Pa., where we purchased a rare lot of silver and copper coins of Miller, and returned home in time to insert this hastily written and imperfect sketch of an editor's excursion.

(To be continued.)

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COIN SALES IN MAY.

Moore's Cabinet, New York,	May 1st and 2nd.
Cook's Sale, Boston,	" 20th.
Mercer's Sale, Cincinnati,	" 22nd.
Wilder's Cabinet, New York,	" 21st-24th.

Particulars of Moore's sale, which has been crowded out of this issue, will be given together with details of the subsequent sales, in our next issue.

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COIN SALE IN JUNE.

Frossard's Collection, New York,	June 13th, 14th.
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Mason's Coin Collectors' Herald.

Philadelphia, June, 1879.

E. MASON, Jr., - - - Editor and Proprietor.

TERMS:

\$1.00 per Annum in Advance.

"THEN" AND "NOW."

OUR SECOND BOW.

TWELVE years ago! It seems but yesterday, or the day before, or last week; last month or last year—the fact is certainly vividly fixed as of recent occurrence—we commenced the publication of *Mason's Coin Collectors' Magazine*, which continued as a numismatic, and sometimes philatelic periodical for about six years, (1867 to 1872 inclusive,) occupying a field almost exclusively our own; supported in the work by many warm friends and patrons in both hemispheres. 'Twas a labor of love, and our associations at home and abroad, were all that the most exacting could desire.

In the pursuit of numismatic and other scientific matters for the edification of our patrons, we were brought in contact with many distinguished personages of the old and new world, some of whom have passed away from all earthly cares and troubles, while others have wandered in distant lands, and made a name and fame which will last through all time. We mourn many deceased numismatic friends; prominently the good, kind, fatherly and able scientist, J. J. Mickly; the learned and respected Ex. Governor of our State, Wm. F. Parker; while in the humbler walks of life, we miss and lament the decease of Parker, of Springfield, Mass., Martin, of this city, both occupying public positions and devoted to the science numismatic. Then the gentlemanly indefatigable scholarly Root, of Boston; Robinson, of Hartford; Bowdoin, of New Haven—three earnest numismatists, whose decease has left a lamentable gap in our ranks, and one not readily filled. While paying our respects to the departed, we must not forget the accession to our numbers of many able and industrious collectors, whose energetic efforts in behalf of the science we pursue, serves, in a measure, to alleviate the sorrows felt for the loss of some of our most devoted and talented collectors.

The "Coin Trade," during the past few years, has fluctuated considerably; at times high prices prevail-

ing for desirable coins, etc., while upon other occasions, decidedly low rates have obtained for even the choicest gems in the various numismatic series.

In the winter of 1872 and '73, business troubles commenced throughout the United States. The subsequent failure of Jay Cooke, added fuel to the flame, and the underpinning of wealth, moderate incomes, and remunerative labor, was knocked askant, causing ruin, wretchedness and want in many households. Of course, our favored hobby, numismatics, suffered in common during the general wreck and shrinkage which occurred. Coin dealers "caved" in common with other trades, numismatic and other scientific journals went "to the wall," and not finding support on that "lay," sputtered and weakened and finally "gave up the ghost." In fact, there was'nt a "ghost of a chance" for the bread winners of our country "to make two ends meet," unless we except our friend Cook, of Boston, who combined the business of cobbling and coin dealing.

Is it any wonder that *Mason's Coin Collectors' Magazine* bowed to the inevitable? We think not. Times have changed, and we hear the busy hum of machinery, the puffing and blowing of steam in our cities and towns, the push and rush of our country cousins, fresh from well planted and tilled farms, seeking their summer outfits at the busy city marts—all indicative of renewed activity, and a promising harvest in the future. The coin dealers are active, coin sales are announced in various cities, and collectors are again seeking to fill the depleted cabinets that contained rarities which served to enrich our kind "Uncles" during the times that tried our souls, our patience and our pocket books. In conclusion, we would ask the kind indulgence of our readers towards our first issue, promising, with their earnest co-operation, to make this periodical second to no other similar publication. Our next issue may be delayed somewhat by our anticipated absence in Europe, but we promise to return as soon as possible, and we hope in time to meet the regular day of publication. We have launched our little craft: are you with us?

UNIQUE "WASHINGTON DOLLAR."

—1796—

THERE is in the possession of a farmer in Pennsylvania, a silver "Washington Dollar" bearing similar emblems to the "Washington Half Dollar." We are promised an impression of this rare coin or "Pattern Piece," at an early day, and hope to present a *fac-simile*, in a future number, for the readers inspection.

MONTHLY REVIEWS.

THE May number of *The Coin Collectors Journal*, published by Scott & Co., New York, is before us. The "Coins of Scotland" is the opening subject this month, followed by an article on the coinage of "The Duchy of Cleves", both of which subjects are full of well known facts and dry entertainment. An illustrated article on "English Shillings" serves to console the American collector for the preceding dry matter, and will give him much valuable knowledge. The "Copper Coins of Canada" and "Coinage of Mecklenburg" are the concluding "heavy weight" attractions in this month's *Journal*. We must call upon our friends, the publishers, to try and present something appertaining to America. Only think of it, five elaborate articles on foreign coins, and not one word for America. This will never do, Messrs. Editors; pull off your coats, roll up your sleeves, and turn up some of the numerous types and varieties of United States and Colonial coinage.

"NUMISMA" FOR MAY.

No. 3, of Vol. 3., of this periodical, leads off as usual with advertisements on first page; then follows "Review of the Meritt Sale" which seems, by the prices quoted, to have been a sort of "Reward of Merit" for the owner. Next follows a very opportune article on the "Irregularities at the Philadelphia Mint." Now, Bro. Frossard, you hit us "where we live" in that last article; and we welcome the opening of this subject, that our readers may learn the *whole truth* concerning the matter of "re-strikes." Col. Snowden, Chief Coiner of the United States Mint, addressed us a communication on December 14, 1871, from which we excerpt the following: "I would state, for the information of all who may have any interest in the matter, that there are no regular coinage or pattern dies in the Mint of any denomination whatsoever, except those dated 1871." Again Col. Snowden writes, (under same date): "In the Spring of 1869, I consulted with the Director, Dr. Linderman, as to the propriety, indeed importance, for various reasons, of having these hubs and dies destroyed. He fully concurred with me, and acting under his authority, I had them all defaced by heating in the forge and use of the sledge." And, again in same letter, "When Gov. Pollock was reappointed Director, in May, of the same year, there was not a hub or die in the Mint except those in actual use upon the coinage for the then current year." This language is plain and euphatic enough, and we Philadelphians, who know Col. Snowden and appreciate his great administrative abilities in the various public positions he has occupied before the country, believe his statements entirely correct, yet we would have the whole numismatic world satisfied upon the subject of "re-strikes" by any proper investigation (as suggested by *Numisma*) to forever set at rest this troublesome matter. The *Numisma*, among other interesting matter, presents

"A medalet of Jefferson Davis" struck in gold, (probably in Paris.—*Ed.*) having on obverse bust of Davis, and on reverse, "OUR FIRST PRESIDENT" within an olive wreath, date in Exergue, 1861. Size 11 1-2 sixteenths, American scale.

"COIN COLLECTORS' JOURNAL," No. 2.

Chas. Steigerwalt, Lancaster, Pa., has issued the first number of a new periodical, entitled as above, which we shall distinguish from Scott & Co.'s monthly of same name by the designation "No. 2." As soon as this new comer is received, will review it.

THE BOSTON NUMISMATIC JOURNAL.

Next month we propose to review this, our old friend and former cotemporary; the journal that had birth in New York, and was adopted in Boston, where it seems to have flourished like a green bay tree.

IN MEMORIAM.

COL. Mendes I. Cohen, the distinguished numismatist, whose celebrated cabinet of coins, medals, etc., were disposed of by auction in New York, Oct. 25, 28, 1875; (the sale being caused by failing eyesight) deceased in Baltimore, on the 8th ult., aged 83. Col. Cohen, we believe, was the only Hebrew that ever received a distinguished official appointment in this country, and the first person to unfurl the stars and stripes (made by himself) upon the river Nile in Egypt; he was of a very genial and kindly disposition, liked by the numismatic fraternity throughout both hemispheres. As a faithful, talented numismatist, Col. Cohen will long be remembered; and as a friend to science, his name will ever appear prominent in our country's history. We shall miss his well known face at future re-unions of the fraternity; but his memory will remain green in the hearts of those who, knowing his good qualities, appreciated them. This is a sad blow to our cause, and another gap is created in our ranks difficult to fill.

TO OUR PATRONS.

THE rapidity with which subscriptions and advertisements are coming in as we go to press, gives assurance that it will be necessary, ere long, to increase the size of the *Herald* to sixteen pages. Thanks, *ten thousand thanks* to our noble friends of the past and to the strangers who have so generously responded to our "circular of invitation" to step up to the "Coin Collector's office" and pay their passage for a year's trip on life's numismatic ocean.

SHIT SHAT WITH CORRESPONDENTS.

- A. Z., New York.—You was one of the many "*Doubting Thomases*," and "*Smart Alecks*," who pitched into the rebel coin, without an iota of knowledge to sustain your assertions, and you cannot do less than make an ample apology for publication in our next issue. Zekiel, come down.
- P. C. R., Manchester.—Too late. Write to Scott & Co., New York. Price one thousand dollars. A copy in silver will cost you two dollars.
- W. H. T., Kansas City.—Shipped you the box of curiosities, also the books. Have not heard if the goods were received in good order. Please write.
- PERLEY P., Boston.—*Mason's Coin Collectors' Magazine* is out of print. The six volumes can sometimes be had at Coin sales. Watch the catalogues.
- RICHARD, Castine, Me.—Your 1792 Washington cent is probably an electrolyte or lead copy. The price you paid leads us to this conclusion.
- A. W. J., Albany.—Lovett has been repeatedly challenged to produce one iota of evidence to sustain the story of the "Confederate States" ordering copper cents from his establishment in this city. We unearthed the first U. S. A. nickel cent (in this city), at the saloon of Capt. Finston, Chestnut St., below 18th St., a few years ago. The Veteran Mexican and Union soldier, Finston, related a touching story of a wounded rebel taking a Confederate cent from his pocket, (after the battle of Bull Run,) and presenting same to the Captain. We declined to purchase the cent, recognising the well-known obverse of one of Lovett's common store cards. There never was a nickel coin ordered or struck by the Confederate Government. The little fabricated U. S. A. cent is rare, however, as few were struck.
- J. L., New York.—The late J. J. Mickley's collection, (sold in this city, November 5th and 6th,) was catalogued by the Editor of this journal, and was not the first work of the kind he has executed. More than one dozen of Mason & Co's Coin sales held at New York and Phila. were catalogued by the same individual. His experience in handling coins extends back to 1857, therefore you need not hesitate to place your work in his hands.
- L. P. W., Utica.—Our next Coin Sale will be held in New York, sometime in September or October, following, which we shall probably offer the B. Cabinet of English reputation.
- ANTIQUARIAN, Kansas City.—The highest price obtained for an American imprint was \$1130, sold at auction in May, 1868, N. Y. (Elliott's Indian Bible, published at Cambridge, Mass., 1629.).
- NOVICE, Philadelphia.—"Proof" coins are those possessing a mirror-like "field," while *uncirculated* coins have a dead brightness, or mint lustre.
- L. R. W. Hudson.—1877-8 Twenty Cent Pieces are very rare, and worth \$5 each, only "proof" struck; can furnish you a "pair of beauties" for \$10.
- S. H. Prince.—The rubbing is from a coin we obtained last summer in England. We were told it was struck in the new metal, termed "Minargent," much like silver, composed of copper, nickel, pure tungsten, pure aluminium—the three latter metals predominating.
- W. Boston.—We propose, at no distant day, to publish a "*History of the Rise and Progress of Coin Dealers and Collectors in the United States*," and will be thankful for any data or incidents of a reliable nature, to aid in this work. The publication will be devoid of any but strict numismatic matter, and we hope to present the faces of a number of prominent collectors and dealers, as illustrations accompanying the history.

COLONIAL AND CONTINENTAL PAPER MONEY.

ANY party having a large quantity of the above named currency, can find a purchaser by addressing the office of this paper.

HOW TO COLLECT A SET OF CENTS; OR, THE SECRET OUT.

BY E. M., JR.

GET a *ninety-three* and *ninety-nine*, and then an *eighteen-four*—the rarest cents of all the "line"—and half the battle's o'er. Then *eighteen-nine* in place you fix close by the *eighteen-seven*; get *ninety-five* and *ninety-six*, and with them, *eighteen-eleven*. Next, *eighteen-eight* and *twenty-three*, *thirteen* and *twenty-one*. These are the dates of scarcity. Fill in—your "set" is done! *Philad., May, 1879.*

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THE NEWS AGENCY AND THE HERALD.

ARRANGEMENTS are in progress to have the COIN COLLECTORS' HERALD placed at every news stand in the large cities of the United States and Canada, for public sale. News Agents, receiving a package of Herald's, can return all unsold copies to this office, until other arrangements are perfected.

SWAPPERS DEPARTMENT.

Under this head we have concluded to introduce all favors from our correspondents, having reference to "Exchanges." Although preference will be given to NUMISMATIC, AUTOGRAPHIC, PHILATELIC, and similar matter. We shall also admit exchanges of BOOKS, FANCY ARTICLES, and general merchandise. Many persons are in possession of surplus articles, which might be of value to many other individuals, and the opportunity will be offered of negotiating exchanges in this department free of cost to advertiser, unless in the future, encroaching beyond the limits set apart for this department. Correspondents desiring full address of advertisers, will enclose postal card to this office.

W. Y.—Wishes to exchange a full length foolscap letter of Benjamin Franklin, written in the *third person* (not signed) dated "Passy, France, Sept. 15, 1781," for any uncirculated United States cent prior to 1814.

"ALFRED."—Will exchange a full set of United States copper cents, fair condition, for a copy of Dr. Dickeson's Coin Manual.

P. P. O.—Wants silver half dimes, prior to 1805, in exchange for scarce dates of half cents.

POLLY.—Has a letter signed by John Adams; written at Amsterdam, Nov. 19, 1785, which she will exchange for a letter of A. Lincoln.

J. W. PIERCE, Frankford, Pa.—Owns a family relic in the shape of a china bust of George Washington on pedestal, highly colored, made in 1818 in France, for which he invites offers. Price \$25. Will send full description on application.

ARTIST.—Will exchange a fine canvas painting, 24x14 inches, in new gilt frame, (Winter Scene) for lot of interesting books.

AMATEUR.—Wants a handsome Coin Cabinet. Will give skates, revolver, jig saw, and "Boys Own Book."

NUMA.—Desires numismatic correspondence from a few beginners, or amateur coin collectors.

A. N. Jr.—Will dispose of a handsome talking and whistling rose-ringed Madras parrot for coins, or cash. Price \$10.

MUSICIAN.—Has a collection of unused postage stamps, (one thousand in number) embracing various nations, which he would be pleased to exchange for a banjo; preferring S. S. Stewart's patent, with twenty-two frets, manufactured at 831 Arch street, Philadelphia. Will also swap off a valuable old violin for a set of French medals; a Züher for a good flute, and various music books for any foreign medals, or numismatic books.

MASON & CO.,
COIN DEALERS AND PUBLISHERS,
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 AND
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Mason's Monthly Price Current, - Free.
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No. 146 Fulton Street,
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